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(INTELLIGENCE)

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(BY DANIEL F. GILMORE)

WASHINGTON (UPI) - A SENATE INTELLIGENCE SUBCOMMITTEE THURSDAY RECOMMENDED THE GOVERNMENT REVIVE THE TWO-TEAM APPROACH TO INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES USED IN 1976 SO MORE THAN ONE PERSPECTIVE IS REPRESENTED ON IMPORTANT SECURITY QUESTIONS.

THE SUBCOMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY SEN. ADLAI STEVENSON, D-ILL., STUDIED THE EXPERIENCE OF THE "A" AND "B" TEAM APPROACH USED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 1976 TO ANALYZE SOVIET STRENGTHS AND INTENTIONS.

THE IDEA WAS PUT INTO EFFECT WHILE GERALD FORD WAS PRESIDENT AND GEORGE BUSH WAS HEAD OF THE CIA.

IN 1976, THE "A" TEAM WAS COMPOSED OF EXPERT ANALYSTS FROM THE CIA, THE DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY AND THE INTELLIGENCE ARMS OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT, ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE, FBI, ENERGY RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION AND TREASURY.

ON THE "B" TEAM WERE RETIRED MILITARY, INTELLIGENCE AND DIPLOMATIC FIGURES AND OTHER EXPERTS ON SOVIET AFFAIRS.

IN REPORTS LEAKED TO THE MEDIA, THE "A" TEAM GENERALLY WAS PORTRAYED AS THE MORE DOVISH GROUP AND THE "B" TEAM AS LOOKING AT PROBLEMS FROM A GRIMMER PERSPECTIVE.

THE INTELLIGENCE SUBCOMMITTEE SAID IN A REPORT IT MADE NO ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE WHICH GROUP'S ESTIMATES WERE MOST ON TARGET, BUT IT DID MAKE THESE JUDGMENTS:

-IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO HAVE OUTSIDE EXPERTS REVIEWING THE OFFICIAL NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES.

-TEAM B "MADE SOME VALID CRITICISMS OF THE OFFICIAL GROUP, ESPECIALLY ON TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE QUESTIONS, AND MADE USEFUL RECOMMENDATIONS.

THE SUBCOMMITTEE SAID OUTSIDE CRITIQUES OF THE OFFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES SHOULD CONTINUE BUT SHOULD BE MADE BY A MORE VARIED GROUP THAN THE OLD "B" TEAM, AND PROCEDURES SHOULD BE MORE STRICTLY MONITORED.

AND IT SAID PANELS REPRESENTING ONLY ONE PERSPECTIVE, WHETHER "HARD" OR "SOFT" ARE NOT DESIRABLE.

"THE A-B TEAM CASE HAD DEMONSTRATED THAT THE KEY QUESTION OF SOVIET STRATEGIC INTENTIONS AND CONDUCT IS ONE WHICH DEMANDS THE BEST POSSIBLE MARSHALING OF U.S. INTELLIGENCE RESOURCES AND AMERICAN BRAINPOWER, AND THAT THE ESTIMATIVE PROCESS NEEDS IMPROVEMENT IN THIS AREA OF CONCERN," THE SUBCOMMITTEE SAID.

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